

JAMES RATTRAY

James Halliday Rattray was born in Portsmouth, Ontario, in 1887. He served in World War I and rose to the rank of Colonel, but was always known locally as Major. He was a graduate of Queen's University with a degree in geology which led him to a career with Kerr Addison Gold Mines Ltd. in Cobalt. Rattray worked his way up to the position of vice-president during the years 1955-58 and had a personal wealth of about \$2.5 million at the time of his death in 1959.



Rattray was acquainted with the Clarkson area through his friends the Parkers, owners of Riverwood, commonly known now as the Chappell Estate. In 1945 Rattray purchased the Fudger mansion, built between 1918-1920 by H.H. Fudger, President of the Robert Simpson Company. The estate was known as *Barrymede* and used by the Fudger family as a summer residence. H.H. Fudger wanted a house that would be safe from fire so he had the mansion built almost entirely of concrete. The large, extensive estate house was built for entertaining and had a long list of full-time staff to maintain the Fudger's refined lifestyle.

Major Rattray was known as "Jim" to his friends and as Mr. Rattray by his household staff. He never married and therefore had no immediate family in this rather larger estate house. However, the house was always full of guests, many of them from the world of politics and the performing arts of which Major Rattray was a great supporter. Rattray died in September 1959 at the age of 72 years, leaving a large estate of 148 acres and a long battle over what would happen to the property. The property fell into private ownership and was up for development when the mansion was destroyed in 1969. After years of negotiation and lobbying by naturalists and concerned citizens the property was opened in October 1975 as the Rattray Marsh Conservation Area, owned by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.